

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 L-03 SPC-03 INR-10

RSC-01 /041 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:HGHAGERTY:GJG

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JDSTODDART

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

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FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR/ACOM/IR

SUBJECT: MYSTIC STAR AND THE AERO STATION

REF: TEHRAN 1281

1. WE MET RECENTLY AND INFORMALLY WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM JCS AND EUCOM, AT THEIR REQUEST, TO SEE IF WE COULD TALK OUR WAY "TO THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM" WHICH RECENT EXCHANGES OF TELEGRAMS HAVE LEFT VERY MUCH UNRESOLVED. AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR OF GIVE-AND-TAKE, WE MANAGED TO CLEAR AWAY MUCH OF THE EXISTING CONFUSION ON THE SUBJECT OF MYSTIC STAR AND THE PROPOSED MEDITERRANEAN AERO STATION.

2. IT TURNS OUT--AND YOU COULD NEVER HAVE GLEANED THIS FROM OUR OUTGOING CABLES--THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE RECENT PROPOSALS PUT TO YOU ON THESE QUESTIONS RELATES NOT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AERO STATION BUT TO THE MYSTIC STAR PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, NOW OPERATED FROM KAGNEW IN ETHIOPIA BUT REQUIRING A NEW HOME

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IN VIEW OF KAGNEW'S FORTHCOMING SHUTDOWN. OUR INTERLOCUTORS

POINTED OUT THAT THE MYSTIC STAR SYSTEM IS USED BY A VARIETY OF TRAVELERS IN THE VIP VC-137'S, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TRAVELS, AND THAT IT IS A MATTER OF SOME CONSIDERABLE URGENCY TO GET THAT SYSTEM SITED IN TIME TO TAKE OVER WHEN KAGNEW TURNS OFF.

3. THE ASSOCIATION WITH THE PROPOSED MEDITERRANEAN AERO STATION IS SIMPLY ONE OF CONVENIENCE, NOT NECESSITY. MYSTIC STAR CAN OPERATE, WITH ABOUT 15 MEN AND ABOUT A VAN-SIZE PIECE OF GEAR, IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER COMMUNICATIONS STATION, E.G., THE ARMY STATION ALREADY IN TEHRAN. THE MYSTIC STAR RELOCATION AND THE PROPOSED MEDITERRANEAN AERO STATION WERE PUT TO YOU IN THE SAME PACKAGE BECAUSE THE AIR FORCE NORMALLY LIKES TO SITE MYSTIC STAR AT AN AERO STATION, SINCE BOTH ARE CONCERNED WITH COMMON PROBLEMS INVOLVING COMMUNICATIONS WITH AIRCRAFT. WHILE THE TIME PRESSURE IS REAL ON THE AERO STATION, IT IS NOTHING LIKE THE TIME SQUEEZE NOW IN PROSPECT ON MYSTIC STAR.

4. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH THE OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PROGRAMS, RADM GENE FARRELL (EUCOM J-6) AND MGEN SCHULKE (J-6 AT JCS), TO SATISFY YOURSELF--AS WE HAVE-- ON THE MYSTIC STAR REQUIREMENT AND TO EXPLORE WITH THEM FURTHER THE PROBLEMS (INCLUDING SERVICE FUNCTIONS) ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AERO STATION IN TEHRAN, TOGETHER WITH OR SEPARATE FROM THE MYSTIC STAR STATION. FARRELL AND SCHULKE COULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH YOU IN TEHRAN IN LATE APRIL IF THAT WOULD SUIT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

5. MAY WE HAVE YOUR REACTION TO THE PROPOSED FARRELL-SCHULKE VISIT? KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERAGENCY COOPERATION, MONITORING FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE048516
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HGHAGERTY:GJG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740352/aaaabwxz.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: TEHRAN 1281
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MYSTIC STAR AND THE AERO STATION
TAGS: MARR, ACOM, IR, MEDITERRANEAN AERO STATION (MAS)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005